

ANDREW ROBERTS

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October 28, 2017

WA UTC

I've enclosed a newspaper article from the Spokesman-Review, Spokane, Washington.

I seem to write to you every year about your rate increases.

Same of "stuff"....need more money for salaries and research and development. Can't you come up with another excuse.

Your utility subscribers are sick of your rate increases.....I'm against it but what good will it do?????????????????

Linda Morris

*Linda Morris*

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and research and development. Can't you come  
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man-Review, Spokane, Washington.

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Andrew  
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Spokesman-Review Oct 28-2014

# Review questions Avista rate request

## Regulatory staff recommend smaller increases

By Becky Kramer  
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Avista Utilities should be allowed to raise customers' rates over the next three years, but by much smaller amounts than company officials proposed, Washington regulatory staff members said Friday.

The Utilities and Transportation Commission's staff recommended denying Avista's requested electric and natural gas increase, and giving the company more modest rate hikes.

Avista's three-year rate plan called for electric base rate increases of 12.5 percent the first year, 2.5 percent the second year and 2.5 percent the third year.

The Spokane-base utility also asked for increases in natural gas rates of 9.3 percent the first year, 4.4 percent the second year and 4.4 percent the third year.

Commission staff recommended electric rate increases of 2 percent the first year, and 2.3 percent in years two and three.

For natural gas, commission staff recommended a 1.3 percent rate increase the first year, and a 3 percent increase in years two and three.

Avista officials said the utility needs higher rates to pay for ongoing capital spending, including major dam renovations and a new online payment system. The utility expects to spend about \$405 million annually on capital projects through 2021.

However, commission staff said Avista hadn't made a compelling case for the requested rate increases. Staff members called the company's proposed

### AVISTA

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plant investments and costs of borrowing money "excessive."

The staff recommendation doesn't detail how the proposed rates would affect residential customers' bills.

The three-member Utilities and Transportation Commission, which is not bound by the staff rec-

ommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's request this winter. New rates would go into effect in January.

Since Avista submitted the request to raise base rates, 114 customers have sent comments to the commission. One customer was undecided; the rest were opposed.

Avista customers will be able to provide public comment at two upcoming meetings. They are sched-

uled for 6 p.m., Nov. 8, at the Northeast Community Center, 4001 N. Cook St., Spokane; and 6 p.m., Nov. 28, at Pioneer Center, 240 S.E. Dexter St., Pullman.

Customers also can submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comments](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comments); email [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov); or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882.

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